

ATSUSHI SUZUMI CREATOR OF *VENUS VS. VIRUS*



HARIDAMA
MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

ATSUSHI
SUZUMI

Kodansha

DEL REY



MAGICAL FRIENDS

Hokuyo and Harika are a little unusual—and not just because they're sorcery students. They're Obsidians, wizards who must use enchanted swords to help them cast spells. Their fellow students think Obsidians are inferior to "normal" wizards. But Hokuyo and Harika have something that their cohorts don't: the power of friendship!

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KODANSHA

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HARIDAMA

MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

ATSUSHI SUZUMI

Translated and adapted by Kaya Laterman

Lettered by Foltz Design



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REY

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Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "dono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.
- kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

THEY
MATCH,
KOKUYO!

WHO
CARES
IF THEY
MATCH?

BUT
I LOVE MY
OBSIDIAN!

HARIKI!

YOU DO
KNOW THAT
OBSIDIAN IS
A SIGN OF
WEAKNESS
FOR
SORCERERS, RIGHT?

IT'S SO
SHINY AND
PRETTY.

-chan:

This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish outness.

Bozu:

This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirly."

Sempai/

Senpai:

This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai:

This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei:

Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]:

This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

PRESSURE !!

YIN.

YANG.

STUDENT, SERIES MAGIC
CRAM SCHOOL

SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

KOKUYO

ONE CAN
OBTAIN
ULTIMATE
POWER BY
MANIPULATING
THESE FORCES,
AND BY
TRAPPING INTO
THE "PRESSURE
SOURCE."

YANG

YIN

IN THIS
UNIVERSE,
THERE ARE
OPPOSING
FORCES
CALLED THE
YIN AND THE
YANG.

THOSE WHO
HAVE THE
ABILITY TO USE
THIS POWER TO
WARD OFF THE
EVIL SPIRITS
THAT LURK IN
THE WORLD...

...ARE CALLED
SORCERERS.

HARIDAMA: MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

ATSUSHI SUZUMI

FIRST PERIOD: THE OBSIDIAN COMPLEX



I FEEL LIKE
YOU'RE NOT EVEN
TRYING.

REALLY?

—

ARE YOU
ALWAYS
GOING TO
RELY ON THE
OBSCURE
AND YOUR
SMOOTH?

IF YOU CAN'T
USE YOUR
MAGIC...

AREN'T
YOU TWO
THE SAME
FOLK,
KOKKOP?

...JUST
TOOK THE
THIRD-
LEVEL
"SOCIETY
EXTRA."

BY THE WAY,
I HEARD THAT
NINOM-
KUN FROM
THE TORME
MAGIC CDM
SCHOOL...

YOU'RE NOT
OVERCOMING
THE ROCK'S
PRESSURE,
KOKKOP.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?
NOW
WATCH
THIS.

HAPP
IT WON'T
BREAK

PRINCIPAL, SEKIEI
MAGIC CDM SCHOOL
TOP-RANKING CONCERN

SEKIEI

USE ALL YOUR
STRENGTH!
IMAGINE YOU
ARE TYING UP
THE PRESSURE
POINTS AT
BOTH ENDS.

PUSH THE
ENERGY
FROM THE
YIN TO THE
YANG!!

FIRST,
THROW
YOUR YIN
AND YANG
TOWARD THE
TARGET.

OR SNAP THE
ENTRY POINT
AND EXIT TO THE
ENTIRE ENERGY
SOURCE.

YOU TOOK
OFF YOUR
OBSDOWN.

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

ALL HAVE THE
SAME YIN
AND YANG
POWER.



EVERYONE
ON THIS
EARTH,
INCLUDING
HUMAN.

YOU CAN CHANGE A
LOT OF DAMAGE
BY TEMPORARILY
INFLECTING THE YIN
AND YANG FORCE
INTO YOUR ENEMY.



THERE IS A
"METHOD" OF
TRANSFERRING
POWER BETWEEN
THE YIN
(POSITIVE)
AND THE YANG
(NEGATIVE).



THE
OBSDOWN
IS USED TO
CORRECT
THEIR FLOW

WHEN A
SORCERER
HITS ONLY
ONE OF THE
FORCES...

THIS IS
WHERE THE
OBSDOWN
IS USEFUL.



HOWEVER,
THERE ARE
THOSE WHO
ARE BORN
WITH EITHER
THE YIN OR
THE YANG,
AND NOT
BOTH.

I KNOW
I HAVE AN
OBSDOWN. I'M
A BOTTOM-OF-
THE-BARREL
STUDENT WITH
NO TALENT.

DON'T
COMPARE
ME WITH
SOMEONE
WHO HAS
THE POWER.

IF YOU
CONTINUE
TO...

STOP
HASSLING
ME, SEKIE!

KOSUO.



DON'T
AIM
FOR MY
HEAD!

YANG.

YIN

W...
WAIT,
SEKIE!

DIDN'T
I TELL
YOU TO
CALL ME
"SENSEI"
DURING
CLASS?



YOU

PRESSURE
!!



WHO SAYS
OBSERVING
IS WEAK?

WHAT
THE...
!?

AREN'T YOU
JUST TALKING
ABOUT YOUR
GIGA KOKORO?

AND, BECAUSE
OF THEIR LIMITED
POWERS, WE
SELDOM CALLED
TO BATTLE.

THE OTHER
SORCERORS
CALL THOSE
SORCERORS
"OBSERVING."

IN OTHER
WORDS, I'M
NOT MEANT
TO BE A
SORCERER.

YOU
STOPPED
THE
FORCE...

BY
REMOVING
THE
OBSERVING.

I SEE THAT
YOUR MIND
WORKS
WELL WHEN
YOU WANT
TO CHEAT.

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
AN OBSERVING
TIE-IN, THERE'S
NO WAY WE
CAN BE MORE
POWERFUL
THAN THOSE
WITH BOTH
FORCES...

?

IT'S A
SHAME TO
HEAR SUCH
NONSENSE.

!?











SE...

SENSEI...!!

HELP ME!

SENSEI...!!

BECOME THE BEST SORCERER IN THE WORLD.





WE'RE
GOING
TO GO
SAVE
HARIKA.

GO
GET THE
SPARE
SWORD.
NOW.

THE ONLY
THING I
COULD DO
WAS RUN.

I
COULDN'T
DO ANY-
THING...

I DIDN'T
KNOW.

RUN
AWAY!!!

I DIDN'T KNOW I DIDN'T HAVE ANY POWERS.

THAT'S
Ru...!!

KOKUYO.

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE SO FRUSTRATING
TO BE POWERLESS.

...I'S ONLY
ATTAINED
WHEN YOU
DISCOVER
YOUR OWN
WEAKNESS.

TRUE
STRENGTH...



THE MONSTER IS USING HIS POWERS TO HIS ADVANTAGE.

WROOT

IF WE MESS UP SHE'LL ONLY BE IN GREATER DANGER.



!!



HARIKA...!!

SHOOT. WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

HE'S ATTACKING US THE MINUTE WE STEP INTO HIS FORCE FIELD.



NANABU

IF ONLY I WAS STRONGER...

LET'S TRY THROWING ON A PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD AND PULL THE GIRL OUT.

NO, THEN THE GIRL'S POWER WILL ALL BE SUCKED OUT!

BUT WHAT OTHER WAY CAN BE...



HE'S...

HE'S GOTTEN BIGGER THAN BEFORE?!



HARIKA!?



!!

MOOY

YEAH!

LET'S JUST GET THE GIRL.



BUT IF HE'S
ATTACKED
IN MID-AIR,
THEN...

!P

YANG.

PRESSURE!!!

YIN.

HE'S
FLYING
!P

HE'S USING
THE FORCE THAT
BLEW UP THE
ROCK TO
PROPEL
HIMSELF!P



THAT'S
IT!

TO GET TO
THE GULF IS
TO...

THE ONLY WAY
WE CAN GET
THROUGH THE
SHIELD...

SHOOT.
HVN'T THERE
ANYTHING
ELSE WE CAN
DO?



WITH ALL
YOUR
MIGHT,
PLEASE!

ONLY, HERE
GOES!

THIS IS
THE ONLY
WAY!

WHA?P
THERE'S
NO WAY
THAT'LL
WORK.

SEKIEI!!
I HAVE
AN IDEA.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
HE'S
ALSO...

SEKIEI
SEKIEI MUST
REALLY LOVE
THEM...
TEACHING
OBEDIENCE!

IN
CONSIDER



ROAR

ALL-RIGHTY
THEN
YOU'RE
MINE!

YANG.

YIN.

PRESSURE
!

UNREAL...

THE PROPORTIONAL
FORCE THAT HE
APPLIED IS HUGE...!

HARIKA
KOKUYO
!

ARE YOU
GUYS
ALL
RIGHT?

!!!

IS ONLY
ATTAINED
WHEN YOU
DISMISS
YOUR OWN
WEAKNESS.



KONUYOP

?

TRUE
STRENGTH.

ALL I'VE
BEEN
DOING IS
AVOIDING
EVERY-
THING.

THAT'S
RIGHT...

CLICK

HELP?

I'LL USE
THAT AS A
STEPPING-
STONE

WAIT.
WHAT ARE
YOU...??

IF I CAN SEE MY OWN
WEAKNESS
WHILE FIGHTING...

MOVE
FORWARD
FROM
HERE.

I MUST...



PRESSURE
!!!

YIN

YANG

LET'S CONTRAST
ATTACKING,
SHALL WE?



WE'RE SO
MUCH WEAKER
THAN THEY
ARE.

YIN...

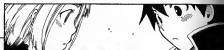
KONUYOP...



I KNOW YOU
TWO CAN
DO IT.

IT'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT.

It's over
now



AAAAAAAAAAAA!



REACH
!!!



!P

THEY'RE
JUST IN THE
WAY AND I
CAN'T REACH
THE TARGET.

WHAT
EXACTLY ARE
YOU
TEACHING
THESE
KIDS?

KOKORO...
HAKKA...

HEY
GUY!



SENSEI

TRY TO CONJURE UP
THE IMAGE OF
THE YIN AND
YANG'S
ENERGY
EXTENDING
THROUGH THE
LENGTH
OF YOUR
SWORD.

THEN...
WHAT
DO WE
DO?

HOW-
EVER...

YOUR
SWORD
WILL NEVER
REACH THE
MONSTER'S
CORE.

BUT THEN
EXTENDING THE
FORCE
BEYOND THE
SWORD.

IN ORDER TO
KILL OFF THE
EVIL SPIRIT WITH
YOUR OBSIDIAN
SWORD, WE HAVE
TO DESTROY HIS
"CORE" OR HIS
CENTRAL ENERGY
FORCE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WERE ABLE TO SLICE THROUGH THE MONSTER'S CORE WITH THAT TOY OF A SWORD!

NO WAY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE OBSCURE HYPERKNIGHTS...

HAVE THIS MUCH POWER...

WAIT A SECOND...



GOSH...
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

I CAN'T BELIEVE
HE DOESN'T
GET TIRED
OF CUTTING
CLAWS EVERY-
DAY.

I WONDER
WHERE HE IS
TODAY?

THAT'S
AWESOME,
BROTHER
KOKUYO!!

OKAY,
AGAIN!!

HERE
AGAIN...

DID I
SECRETLY
EXTEND...

TOO MUCH
POWER
INTO THEM?

BUT
SOME-
THING
IS
WEIRD.

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

ARE YOU
BEHIND
THIS?

FROM

HEL...

NICE
GOING!



THEN QUIT
CUTTING
CLASSES!



SINCE YOUR
DREAMS
MIGHT
NEVER COME
TRUE...

I FEEL BAD
FOR YOU...

HEREKOR, WHEN
DID YOU GET
HERE?

WHAT
!?



THAT'S
BECAUSE I'M
GOING TO BE
THE MOST
POWERFUL
SORCERER IN
THE WORLD!



CHECK
OUT MY
SWORDS-
MANSHIP!



WHAT AM
I DO'G...

YOU
KNOW...

I AM ON
MY WAY TO
BECOMING
THE MOST
POWERFUL
SORCERER IN
THE WORLD!



NONE
KINDO...



CAN WE
GET YOUR
AUTOGRAPH
PLEASE?





THE
WORLD
HOUSE'S
SPECIAL
POWERS
CALLED
THE YIN
AND THE
YANG.

THOSE WHO
PROTECT US
FROM EVIL
SPIRITS...

SEKIEI MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

USE
BOTH THE
POSITIVE
AND
NEGATIVE
FORCES.

YANG.

YIN.

くか

SACRE



I'M BUSY
STUDYING
THE SLEEP
TECH-
NIQUES
AND YOU...

WHY DID
YOU DO
THAT,
SEKIEP?

A PUMPY
WAKE-UP CALL,
NOMADOP?

HEHEHE

WELL,
HMM...

...DURING
CLASS!

YOU MUST
CALL ME
SENSEI...

PLEASE,
DON'T
DESTROY WHAT
MY FATHER
CREATED!!

AAAA
HHHH
!!

HOW MANY
TIMES DO I
HAVE TO TELL
YOU THAT?!

BOOOO

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
KEEP THIS GIRL...

WE CALL
THEM
SORCER-
ERS.

PRESSURE

AAAA
HHHH
!!!

SECOND PERIOD: GAME ON!

WHY DON'T
YOU TWO GO
TO THE HELL
AND PRACTICE
YOUR SKILLS?

I HAVE
A MEETING
WITH OTHER
LEVEL-ONE
SORCERSERS
THIS AFTER-
NOON SO...

WHY DON'T
WE TEST
YOUR SKILLS
AGAINST
HARIKA'S
TEAM?



THAT
SEKIEL...



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

COURSE
WORK DOESN'T
MATTER
WHEN
YOU'RE
FIGHTING...

AND HE'S
NOT GOING
TO LET ME
TAKE THE
EXAM JUST
FOR THAT!



TAKE THE
THIRD-LEVEL
SORCERY
EXAM...

THEN I HAVE
NO CHOICE
BUT TO ONLY
LET HARIKA...



NEVER MIND
THE COURSE
WORK...

OH,
REALLY?



MY SKILLS
ARE AS
GOOD AS
HARIKA'S!



WHY? HARIKA
ENROLLED HERE
WAY AFTER
ME?

AT THIS POINT,
HARIKA IS
MUCH MORE
ADVANCED IN
HER STUDIES
THAN YOU.

THAT'S
BOLDING SKILLS
AND COURSE
WORK.

HE'S
FILLING
FOR IT.



OH,
THAT'S A LOT.

BOW

YOUR
PANTS WITH
FLYING
COLORS IF
THIS WAS
AN OVA
EXTRA.



THAT'S WHY
WE HAVE TO
USE OUR
BRAINS A
LITTLE MORE.

US OBSIDIAN
DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH POWER.



SLIP

OH,
REALLY?

I'M NOT
GOING TO
LOSE TO YOU
OVER SKILL.



ONCE AND JUST
YESTERDAY YOU
WERE SAYING
YOU WOULDN'T
USE YOUR
SWORD...

NOW
QUICKLY WE
CHANGE.

BUT WE'VE
GOT OUR
SWORDS.

DIDN'T WE
TAKE CARE OF
THE MONSTER
WITH THIS?



HERE I
COME!



I'M
FLEXIBLE.

YOU
MEAN TO
SAY.



HSH, IT'S LIKE
YOU'RE TELLING
ME TO DUCK
WITH THAT
SOUND.



DOPS.



THAT'S
EXACTLY
RIGHT.

PRESSURE
!

GRIN



HUH?



YANG.

YIN.



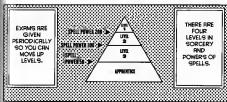
URGH..

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING
HTP

HEHE
YOU
NEEDED!











HA, HA,
YOU KNOW
THAT'S NOT
GOING TO
REACH..

PLUNG

YAH!

YIN,

NOW
!!

HEAT
ON THE
SWORD
?

!?

YANG,

DID HE
ADD
PRESSURE
TO HIS
SWORD?!

YANG

YIN

QUICK

GIVE IT
YOUR
BEST
SHOT!!

THERE'S NO
WAY I CAN
KEEP UP EVEN
IF I USE MY
OBEDIENCE
SWORD!

SHOOT.
HE'S
FAST!

I'M
SURPRISED
YOU GOT
OUT OF THE
WAY.

I HAVE TO
FIND THE
EXACT
MOMENT
TO ZAP
HIM.

I HAVE TO
USE MY
SPELLS...









TO TURN
INTO A
SORCERER.

HE PURPOSELY
ADOPTED AN
OBSESSIVE
HARRY...



HE'S NOT JUST
STRANGE, HE'S
STUPID.



WHA....



HEY,
NODOMO
!!

RUNNING
AWAY, ARE
YOU?

I'M
CUTTER
HERE.

SORRY,
THIS IS
REALLY SO
SILLY.

CLAM!
CLAM!
CLAM!
CLAM!



YOU DO
GO TO THE
WORST
CRIM
SCHOOL
EVER!

I GUESS
YOUR TEACHER
HESN'T TAUGHT
YOU MUCH,
EEP



WHAT
DID YOU
JUST
SAY?



NODOMO CAN
FIGURE OUT WHAT
YOUR TEACHER
IS DOING OR
THINKING.

EVERYONE
TALKS ABOUT
YOUR CRIM
SCHOOL...



BUT YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANY RIGHT
TO LOOK
DOWN ON
US.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
MAGNIFICENT
YOUR TEACHER
IS...



UM...



UH...

OKAY

THIS IS
RIDICULOUS.

LET'S GO
HOME.



CRACK



HARIKA-
CHAN...

I'M USED TO
HEARING GOSPEP
ABOUT KOKORO
AND I, BUT...



ばん



MY BELOVED
SCHOOL, AND
GEKKO-
SENSEI.

I WON'T
STOP
LISTENING
TO YOU
TRASH.



THAT
JUST
MEANS...

THAT YOU
HAVE TO GET
THAT MUCH
STRONGER
FROM HERE
ON.



YOU CAN
RETURN
TO THE
EXAMPLE I
GAVE YOU
EARLIER
AND...

SO
DURING
THIS KIND
OF
BATTLE...



CAN I REALLY
BECOME A
SORCERER?

HEY,
SENKEI.

.....



I'M AN
OBSERVANT
AND WORK.



SURE, YOU
DEFINITELY ARE
NOT STRONG
YET.

KOMUO.



WHY?

I HAVE NO STRENGTH...



DOES THIS MEAN...

I'M NOT MEANT TO BECOME A SORCERER?





**THIRD PERIOD:
ADVENTURE IN THE MOONLIGHT**





STOP THAT!
HE'S SCARED.

YOU LITTLE...

WHICH
NERVES I
BECAME WEAK
BECAUSE
OF HIM?



LET HIM
GO.

NONETHELESS,
IT MEANS YOU
NO HARM.

OH, ALL
RIGHT.

INJECTED



HMM...

USUALLY WHEN
MOON BEETLES
SUCK THE POWER
FROM HUMANS, IT'S
SO INSIGNIFICANT
YOU SHOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO FEEL IT.

I WONDER
WHAT'S
GOING ON...



DON'T TRY
THAT AGAIN,
YOU HEART?



HOW THE
HECK DID YOU
BRING IT BACK
WITH YOU,
KONGUYOP?

THESE MOON
BEETLES LIVE
ONLY NEAR THE
MAGIC FOREST.



MOON
BEETLE?

THAT'S
WHAT WAS
STUCK TO
KONGUYOP

HUH?



ITS COLONY CENTERS
AROUND THE QUEEN
BEETLE. DURING THE TIME
WHEN THE ULTIMATE LEADER,
PRINCESS MAYIL IS IN HER
DEVELOPMENT
STAGE...

IT'S A
TYPE OF
BEETLE.

THE BEETLE SUCKS
THE ENERGY AND
POWER OUT OF
HUMANS.

IT
LOOKS
CUTE UP
CLOSE...







SO YOU
HAD IT
TOO...



NEKOME
!?

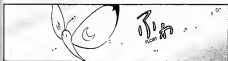
I GUESS YOU
SAW THE SAME
DREAM, HMP?



MY OH, MY,
HARIKA!!
YOU LOOK
ESPECIALLY
BEAUTIFUL IN
THE MOON-
LIGHT!!



HUH...?



フム...



YOU SURE
THIS GUY
MADE YOU
DREAM THAT
DREAM?

IT'S NOT A
COINCIDENCE?

WILL YOU
SHUT UP? YOU
FOLLOWED ME
HERE ON YOUR
OWN AND NOW
YOU'RE
QUESTIONING
ME?



WHAT TOOK
YOU SO
LONG,
KOKORO?

I THINK IT
GETS ROCKY
UP AHEAD...



YUUL, BUT THEY'RE HEADED TOWARD THE EDGE OF TOWN AND INTO THE MAGIC FOREST.

DO THEY WANT US TO GO OVER THERE?

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE HAVE TO GO.



IF WE DON'T HELP THEM NOW, THEY MIGHT BE WITH US FOREVER.

THEIR PRINCESS WAS THROWN OUT OF HER NEST BECAUSE OF US.



OH, WHATEVER! LET'S GO!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS, WHY ENJOY IN STUPID FIGHTS TO BEGIN WITH?



KOKORO...



THEY'RE FUNNY. I CAN'T FIND IT.



I WONDER IF IT WERE BLOWN AWAY FAR AWAY.

IN MY DREAM, THIS ROCK WAS BLOWN TO PIECES.

THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM...



!?

ヒョーン









NOW !!

JUST TRY AND EAT ME!

KEEP LURING HIM IN.

IN THE MEANTIME YOU GET THE PRINCESS.

I'LL DISTRACT THE LIZARD.

DON'T ORDER ME AROUND!

I KNOW!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET THE PRINCESS BACK!!

NICE! I'VE GOT IT!

THOMP

HEY! THIS WAY!!

STOMP

77





IT CAN'T BE...
DIDN'T THEY
REMOVE THEIR
OBSIDIANS?

WHAT
WAS THAT
SPELL?P



AND THAT
POWER!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON...?P

THAT'S NOT
A SPELL AN
APPRENTICE
CAN CAST...!!



HUH?

PROY...

MOON
BEETLES?

JUST
LIKE HER
NAME, SHE
LOOKS
LIKE THE
MOON.

IT'S THE
BIRTH OF
PRINCESS
MYRL

YOU TWO
DIDN'T WAKE
UP JUST IN
TIME.

HUHP

IS IT
MORNING
ALREADY?

IT'S
BRIGHT

!?

NO, TAKE
A CLOSER
LOOK.

THERE
ARE TWO
MOONS
!?





THAT'S
BEAUTIFUL...







THAT
MEANS
WE'RE...



AN ADMISSION
CARD FOR THE
THIRD-LEVEL
SORCERY
EXAM!?

THE EXAM,
WHICH
INCLUDES A
PAPER TEST
AND SKILLS
TEST, IS
EXACTLY...



NOW
THERE'S NO
TIME TO BE
FOOLING
AROUND.

YOUR
APPLICATION
HAS BEEN
OFFICIALLY
APPROVED.



ONE
MONTH
FROM
TODAY!







FOURTH PERIOD: A PATH OF MY OWN

HEY, YOU,
OBSESS!

KONG/PO! I
HEAR YOU
WANT TO BE A
SOMEBODY!

NEVER
GONNA
HAPPEN!

DON'T EVEN
TRY IT!

THERE'S NO
WAY YOU'RE
GOING TO
BEAT US.

SHUCKS.

LUCK



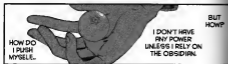
HAH..



OH



YOU WERE
STUDYING...



HOW DO
I PUSH
MYSELF...

BUT
HOW?

I DON'T HAVE
ANY POWER
UNLESS I RELY ON
THE OBSIDIAN.



...OUT OF THIS MISERY?



IT'S NOT
LIKE I
ASKED...

...TO BE
BORN
THIS
WAY.

STUPID
ROCK...



THINGS START
TO HAPPEN WHEN
YOU ACCEPT
WHO YOU ARE.

YOU MUST
BE PROUD
OF YOUR-
SELF.



PROUD OF
MYSELF?

EXAM DAY







THIS IS
WHERE THE
SKILLS
EXAM TAKES
PLACE?



WHAT KIND
OF SKILLS
CAN BE
TESTED IN
SUCH A TINY
SPACE?

IT'S
GURU.

HOW
BIG THE
INSIDE
ACTUALLY
IS.



AND WHY IS
IT ON THE
EDGE OF
TOWN?

WHAT
SMALL
BUILDING.



ONLY SIX
PASSED THE
WRITTEN
EXAM.

INCLUDING
OUR OWN
THREE FROM
TOWNS
CRIM
SCHOOL.

THAT'S
GOOD.

AND...



AND THOSE
TWO PASSED,
TOO.













WE'LL BE LATE
IF WE KEEP
ATTACKING
THEM ONE BY ONE.

LET'S
DESTROY
THEM ALL
AT ONCE.



SO IT'S NO
USE TO KEEP
CHARGING THEM
UNLESS IT'S LIKE
TAKING ONE
STEP FORWARD
AND GOING TWO
STEPS BACK.



THEY'RE ONLY
IN THIS CORNER,
SO YOU WANT TO
KEEP ATTACKING
THEIR CORSE?

NO, THAT
WOULDN'T
WORK.



PLEASE!!





IT'S THE DOOR!

I SEE IT!



THE EVIL MONSTERS ARE TOTALLY HERE.

THIS HAPT AS HARD AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

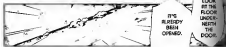
SO WE'LL ARRIVE JUST ABOUT THE SAME TIME.



HEY!

LOOK, KOKUYO.

I'LL OPEN IT IN ONE SHOT.



IT'S ALREADY BEEN OPENED.

LOOK AT THE FLOOR UNDER THE DOOR.



WELL...



?

THEY'VE BURSTENUS HERE, WE'VE GOT TO HURRY.



LIKE THE COMPANY INDICATES, OUR TARGET HAS TO BE BEYOND THESE DOORS.

OF COURSE WE'RE FIRST.



I BET THEY'D LOVE THIS.



I WONDER IF THE CHANGELINGS WILL EVEN GET THIS FAR.

YOU WOULD LEAVE A LITTLE GIFT FOR THEM, JUST IN CASE THEY DO?

...CALLED US
HERE.

LET'S LET
THEM REGRET
THAT THEY
EVER...

YOU DO
UNDER-
STAND...
THAT THIS
IS AN
IMPORTANT
COUNCIL.

.....
NO.

I WANT TO
DO THIS
OURSELF.



LET'S
DO THE
OTHER
WAY.

HRRRKL

NEVER
MIND
THAT,
LET'S
HURRY

WHY AN
EASY WORK
TO FIGURE
OUT...

IF WE TAKE
THE SAME
ROUTE AS
THEM, THEN
WE'LL NEVER
CATCH UP

BUT THE
COMPASS
IS POINTING
THIS WAY...

WHAT
!?

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

WE HAVE
A CHANCE
TO CATCH
UP

IF THINGS
GO
WELL ON
ANOTHER
ROUTE...



...OUR OWN
PATH!



TAKING THE
SAME ROUTE
CAN'T BE THE
ONLY SOLUTION.



THERE MUST BE...



BECAUSE
THIS IS SO
IMPORTANT.

EXAM HEADQUARTERS

YOUR THREE
BOYS ARE
DOING WELL,
TORRILE.

ONE
BOY
GAVE
UP

THEY'RE
ALMOST
AT THE
END.

HOW
ARE
MY TWO
DOGS?

UM,
LET'S
SEE...

THOSE
TWO
ARE...

WELL, OF
COURSE.

HUH?

GRAB

WHAT THE...

WHAT'S
GOING
ON!?

WHAT
!?

IT'S...
SM...

BUT...

THE
COMPASS
MOVED!!

IT'S POINTING
IN AN ENTIRELY
DIFFERENT
DIRECTION.

WHAT'S
THAT
HOLE?

BUT BOTH OUR
COMPASSES
ARE POINTING
THAT WAY.

DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE
A DOOR.

SCORE!
A SHORT-
CUT!

WHAT!?
THEN
SHOW ME
YOURS.

YOUR SORRY
SENSE OF
DIRECTION
MUST HAVE
AFFECTED OUR
COMPASS.

HEY...

FIFTH PERIOD: THE PLEDGE AND MOVING ON



THEY'VE
DROPPED OFF
THE RIDGE?

WIRE.

WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND?









LOOK THERE!





WAIT
THE...



THIS IS
PART
OF THE
EXAM?!



OKAY
THEN.





WAAAAA

MY
LEAD...



WE WERE
RIGHT
UNDERNEATH
THEM!

THEY'RE THE
BOYS FROM
TOWNE
CREAM
SCHOOL.



SHOOT,
YIN!



HE
SHOWS
UP EVEN
THOUGH WE
HIRE THE
MIDWILONS.

I WENT
PREPARED
FOR THIS.

WHAT THE
HECK IS
THIS? HE'S
HUGE!



AH!

WHOO!

WAAAAA



THE EXIT
IS THIS
WAY.

LET'S GET
GOING.





OBSIDIAN...

HE'S AN...



KOKUYO !!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE ALL
I CAN DO IS
SIT HERE AND
WATCH ALL
THIS!!

I CAN'T
ATTACK THE
MONSTER
WITHOUT MY
OBSIDIAN.

L

BUT...

THIS MONSTER...

SURE IS
STRONG.

LOOKING
FOR ME?

...SEKIEL, WHO RESCUED ME AS AN ORPHAN EVEN THOUGH I WAS AN OBSESSIVE, AND FOR HARIKA, WHOM I'VE KNOWN SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

AND...

FOR MYSELF,
SO I CAN BE
PROUD OF
ME.

I'M DOING
THIS FOR...



I AM GOING
TO BE THE
WORLD'S BEST
SORCERER!!





USE THE
SPELL YOU
USED TO
DEFLECT THE
LIZARD.

THAT
SHOULD
WORK.



I JUST CAME
AROUND
TO CHECK
THINGS OUT.

BUT I CAN
GIVE YOU
SOME
ADVICE.

P



I'VE BEEN
THINKING
ABOUT
WHAT
SPELLS
YOU TWO
CAN USE.

WITHOUT
YOUR
OBSERVING.



ABOUT
WHAT
HAPPENED
THEN.

BUT WE
DON'T
REMEM-
BER ANY-
THING.

DID WE
REALLY
KILL THE
LIZARD?



HUH?



WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?



SHOOT, NOW
I'M UNARMED.

NOW
WHAT?



NERD! WHAT THE
HECK ARE
YOU.

WAIT,
WATCH
OUT!



DON'T WORRY
ABOUT ME, I'VE
GOT IT COVERED
AROUND AS
THAT BLOCKS
ALL SOUND.



JUST USE
YOUR
SPELLS.



THE
MONSTER
IS
SWIMMING
AT ANY-
THING NOW.

JUST DO IT
I SAY.



THIS IS
HOW YOU
FEEL WITH
THE GNARD.
NO, IT'S
STRONGER
THAN THAT.

WHAT
INTENSE
POWER!!



IT'S...

WE HAVE TO
ENVISION
OUR POWERS
TOGETHER
FIRST.

OH I
KNOW.

YOU GUYS
WILL BE ALL
RIGHT.

DON'T
WORRY.

WE
CAN
DO
IT!!

AS OUR HANDS
JOIN TOGETHER...

SO WILL OUR
POWERS...

THIS IS
OUR
POWER
!!

WE
CAN
DO IT
!!

RIGHT
ON!

YIN.
YANG.



OBSEDIANS ARE
SO STRONG.



WE HAVE
POWER
WITHOUT
OUR
OBSEDIANS.

IT'S
POWER
FROM
WITHIN
US!!



WHAT!?

NOT IT.

THAT'S...

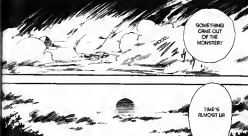
IT'S THE
FIRST-LEVEL
MEDALLION.

THIS ISN'T
THE THIRD-
LEVEL
MEDALLION.



HARIKA AND
I ENDED UP
PASSING
THE THIRD-
LEVEL EXAM.

SO AFTER
EVERY-
THING
WAS
EXPLAINED



SOMETHING
CAME OUT
OF THE
MONSTER!

TIME'S
ALMOST UP



NICE!
WE MADE
IT!!

COME



IF ANY-
THING
HAPPENED
TO THEM...

WHERE
ARE MY
STUDENTS?

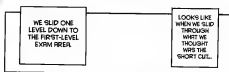
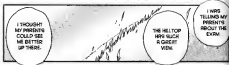


THAT
DIDN'T MATTER.
WE DID IT,
SEKIEN!

SEE!
LOOK!!

GO

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU,
KOKUYO?







AFTERWORD

NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M SUZUME! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PURCHASING *AKAGIRI: MAGIC GRAM SCHOOL*. IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED! I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO DELIVER THIS BOOK TO YOU SAFELY. I SEND MY TRUE GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO ALL THOSE THAT HELPED ME WITH THIS BOOK, TO THOSE WHO ENCOURAGED ME, AND TO THOSE WHO READ THE STORY.

ORIGINALLY, *MAGIC GRAM SCHOOL* WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN IN SHORT MANGA FORM. HOWEVER, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, MY EDITORS ASKED ME TO TURN IT INTO SOMETHING A BIT LONGER, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, IT WAS PUBLISHED AS A SHORT SERIES. I KNEW IT WOULD BE A CHALLENGE BUT WHAT THE HECK? I SEEM TO HAVE JUST MADE IT TO THE FINISH LINE. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER WRITTEN A SERIES. (AND OF COURSE I DID TWO AT ONCE, I FEEL SO RECKLESS!) I CERTAINLY HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH OVER THE PAST FIVE MONTHS.

I HOPE I WAS ABLE TO GROW EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT—
LIKE KOKUYO AND HARIKA.

I STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN FROM HERE ON OUT SO
I HOPE I DON'T GET TOO LAZY (LAUGH). I WANT TO KEEP
MOVING FORWARD!

THANKS TO EVERYONE AGAIN!

2005.12 伊藤 敦
(ITOH DUN)



Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most nonnatives, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

HARIDAMA

The title of this manga, *Haridama*, has no literal translation. But in the context of the story, a *haridama* is a small ball made of obsidian.



OBSIDIAN, page 1

Obsidian is a dark-colored natural glass that is formed by the cooling of molten lava. In this story, the word indicates the small glass ball that fits on top of Kokoro and Hanka's swords, but it can also be used to describe the kind of sorcerer who needs an obsidian ball in order to cast spells.



YIN AND YANG, page 3

This story borrows these two important concepts from Eastern philosophy. In essence, yin and yang together represent all the forces found in all the objects in the universe, which are both perfectly opposite and complementary. Yin tends to describe the darker elements (such as night), while yang describes the lighter elements (such as day).

About the Creator



Hi! I'm a manga artist. I'm also an illustrator. I've been drawing since I was in kindergarten, but the first time I picked up a manga pen was in the fourth grade. The manga artists who inspire me are Akira Toriyama and Masamune Inomata.

People like to ask me what tools I use, but I'm pretty analog when it comes to drawing manga. I use G pens, maru pens, and pilot ink. But when it comes to color illustrations, I go digital. I scan the inked illustrations and use Painter7 to color them.

I still work hard every day to get better as an artist. There are so many things I can't draw!

Things I like:

Pictures, music, clothes, hats, walking, and the charming sights of the four seasons. Profiles. One-piece dresses. Winter—I love putting my scarf on! Cats. Glasses (black-rimmed ones are the best!). Dandy middle-aged men and old men characters. Live music (punk, rock, etc.). Café Ole. Cute packaging and make-up. Elegant cafes and coffee houses.

作者 数

(TETSUKA SUZUKI)

CRAM SCHOOL, page 3

In Japan, a cram school is a privately run organization that runs after-school study programs for students (from elementary to high school) who want to do well on the Japanese school system's tough entrance exams. Cram schools cover every subject that regular schools teach. In the context of this story, magic cram schools prep their students to pass the strict and somewhat dangerous sorcery exams!



NEKOME, page 5

Nekome's name literally means "cat eyes." Nekome is the son of a sorcerer who runs the Toriwa (which translates to "tiger eyes") Cram School.



LETTER OF CHALLENGE, page 84

A letter of challenge is passed on to someone who wants to fight another or invite another to a duel to settle a score.